

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/697,254

Examiner

Tramar Harper

Applicant(s)

HOSHINO ET AL.

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/14/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

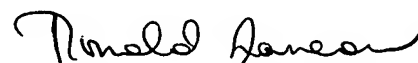
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6-18-04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carl Schaukowitch on 9/12/07.

In the Claims:

Cancel Claims 8-11.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Patentability seen in, although not limited to Independent Claim 1: the gaming apparatus comprising a game result display device including a first display device including reels each of which symbols are formed and a second display device arranged in front of the first display device; a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a specific game result is displayed on the game result display device, wherein an image displayed on the second display device is created by synthesizing a plurality of images based on a priority order. Furthermore, wherein symbol display areas of the second display device through which the first display device is seen and recognized, are realized by displaying a predetermined image with higher priority order among the plurality of images (superimposed). The second display is

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constructed from a multilayer liquid crystal display device, which includes a liquid crystal panel with a light guide device arranged behind the panel, an illumination device for generating light towards the light guide device, and a reflection device for reflecting light guided to the light guide device toward the liquid panel arranged in the front of the light guide device. The reflection device made of a reflection film having a reflection area for reflecting light from the light guide device toward the panel and a plurality of non-reflection areas that are light transmittable, each of which correspond to each reel. The closest prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed apparatus in combination. Loose (US 6,517,433) discloses a gaming machine that comprises of mechanical rotatable reels of symbols as a variable display means and a video display as a more front side display means, through which the variable display is seen. The video display provides a synthesized plurality of images, such as graphics illustrating beneficial states, upon the variable display means. The video display displays a variety of special effects through the use of graphical imagery to indicate various results as the reels are rotated or stopped. Images are displayed based on a priority order as the reels are started and stopped. Loose fails to disclose a liquid crystal display (LCD) device including a liquid crystal panel, light guide device arranged at a rear side of the liquid crystal panel, illumination device for generating light which is guided to the light guide device and reflection device for reflecting light guided to the light guide device toward the liquid crystal panel arranged in the front side of the light guide device. Muir (WO 3039699 A1) teaches the use of a liquid crystal multilayer structure in a more front side of a variable display or set of reels. The structure comprises the use of a liquid

crystal panel followed by a transparent panel with illuminating device attached. However, Muir fails to disclose a reflection device for reflecting light guided to the light guide device toward the liquid crystal panel arranged in the front side of the light guide device. Ozaki (US 2001/0031658) teaches a slot machine that comprises of a transmission type (transparent) LCD display at a front side of a reel display with a reflective panel between. There is a backlight or illuminating device between the LCD and the reflective panel. Ozaki discloses that the reflective panel reflects light from the illuminating device back through the LCD providing emphasis on the LCD display. However, Ozaki fails to disclose display images based on priority order e.g. superimposing and does not teach the light panel, light guide, and reflection device arrangement. None of the above teach the reflection device made of a reflection film having a reflection area for reflecting light from the light guide device toward the panel and a plurality of non-reflection areas that are light transmittable, each of which correspond to each reel.

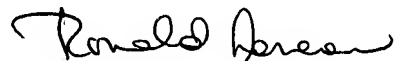
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamar Harper whose telephone number is (571) 272-6177. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ronald Laneau
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3714

TH

9/13/07